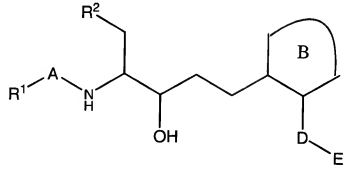
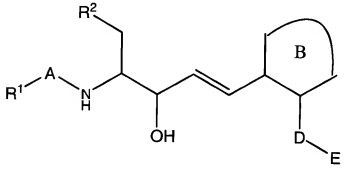
Amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula:



or

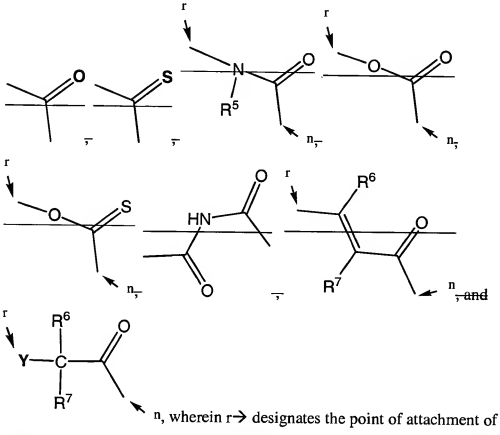


wherein:

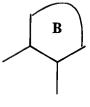
R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1–C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1–C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, C_3–C_{10} oxaalkyl, ~~aryloxy~~, substituted aryl, ~~heterocyclyl and substituted heterocyclyl~~;

R^2 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1–C_{10} hydrocarbon; and substituted aryl ~~and heterocyclyl~~;

A is ~~chosen from the group consisting of a direct bond, $-SO_2-$, $-NHSO_2-$, $-SO_2NHC(O)-$,~~



n, wherein r→ designates the point of attachment of R^1 and n→ designates the point of attachment to N;



is phenyl ~~monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic aryl or heteroaryl~~ containing from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, (lower alkoxycarbonyl)lower alkoxy, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, halo and haloalkyl;

R^5 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;

R^6 and R^7 are chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

D is –C(O) or –NHC(O)-;

E is chosen from the group consisting of C_5–C_8 alkyl~~, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl,~~ and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

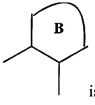
R^{10} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and substituted alkyl; and

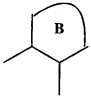
Y is ~~–O–, –S–, –NH– or a direct bond~~,

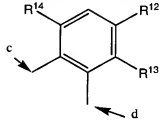
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 2-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein 

is phenyl~~, substituted phenyl or napthyl~~.

12. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 11 wherein 

is ~~napthyl or~~ 

wherein

R^{12} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, nitro and [(lower alkoxy)carbonyl)] lower alkoxy;

R^{13} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

R^{14} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy; and

c→ and d→ designate the points of attachment to the carbon chain and D respectively.

13. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is –C(O)-.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled)

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is phenyl, ethyl, propyl, or butyl.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a protease precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS, or a related condition.
21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is malaria.
22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
23. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.
24. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.